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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 24, 2004, at 2 p.m.

Senate

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2004

The Senate met at 8:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Father Norman H. Elliott, All Saints Episcopal Church, Anchorage, AK, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, under whom our many States are one Nation, we honor on this day, Abraham Lincoln. We remember his words spoken on the battlefield of Gettysburg: "Four score and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation—or any nation, so conceived and so dedicated—can long endure."

Today we are engaged in a war on terrorism, testing once again whether this Nation can endure. In these perilous times it is well that we remember the words of Lincoln as he left Springfield to become the President: "I now leave . . . with a task before me greater than that which rested upon Washington. Without the assistance of the Divine Being who ever attended him, I cannot succeed. With that assistance I cannot fail." Grant then, O God, Your assistance to the men and women called to the high office of Senator and the responsibilities entrusted to them in these grave hours. Give them the faith, wisdom, and courage they need to carry on and not fail. And bring soon, we pray, the day when these walls will resound, as they have in times past, with the shout of "Victory"

and our Nation will again know peace and security and will endure.

We ask this in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

SAFE, ACCOUNTABLE, FLEXIBLE, AND EFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT OF 2003

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1072, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Inhofe amendment No. 2285, in the nature of a substitute.

Clinton/Bingaman amendment No. 2311 (to language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 2285), to express the sense of the Senate concerning the outsourcing of American jobs.

Bond amendment No. 2327 (to amendment No. 2311), to limit liability with respect to

the owners of rented or leased motor vehicles.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will complete the final 30 minutes of debate prior to the vote on invoking cloture on the substitute amendment to S. 1072, the highway bill. That vote will occur at 9 a.m. today. If cloture is invoked, it is my hope that we will be able to dispose of any germane amendments in a timely manner, thereby clearing the way to wrap up consideration of the substitute. Once the substitute is disposed of, we still may require a cloture vote on the bill itself. It is my hope that we will be able to speed the process along and be in a position to complete action on the bill today. As was announced last night, it is my intention to remain in session until we pass this bill.

Senators should expect rollcall votes throughout the day. In addition, I remind all Senators that all second-degree amendments must be filed at the desk no later than 9 a.m.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the managers will yield to the Senator from California 5 minutes.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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